

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Published Since 1877

Baptists see much to celebrate for 1993 Independence Day

By William H. Perkins Jr.

A mixture of patriotic music and fried chicken will overwhelm the air around many churches as Mississippi Baptists celebrate Independence Day with a combination of high-tech productions and old-fashioned dinners on the ground.

Southern Baptists have long been known for their emphasis on God and country, and churches in the state are going all-out this year to put action to the words, "Proud to be American." Coincidentally, July 4 this year will be on Sunday.

First Church, Jackson, cleared a large church-owned parking lot for their celebration June 27 and filled the space with three sound stages,

multiple choirs, orchestra, and food booths. Wireless microphones fed huge outdoor sound systems, and theater spotlights on a high-rise platform illuminated the festivities as dusk settled over the city.

Also on hand for inspection by children—of all ages—were a operational military helicopter, a "Humvee" transport vehicle made famous during the Gulf War, and a shiny pumper from the Jackson Fire Department.

In the Delta, North Greenwood Church and First Church, Greenwood, will combine forces to perform a musical, "From Sea to Shining Sea," at 7 p.m. on July 1 at

North Greenwood. Jeff Chamblee, minister of music at North Greenwood, and Keith Bennett, minister of music at First, have coordinated the planning.

"At the height of Desert Storm two years ago, we did a musical at First Church and it went over really well," Chamblee said. Plans were then made to repeat the event every other year and rotate the setting between the churches.

The 1993 installment will include a children's choir, recognition of the service branches, and appearances by Christopher Columbus and Betsy Ross, Chamblee said.

Highland Church in Meridian will have a special 7 p.m. service on July 4, that will include choir, orchestra, military color guard, and a special 200-slide patriotic photograph show set to music by a church member.

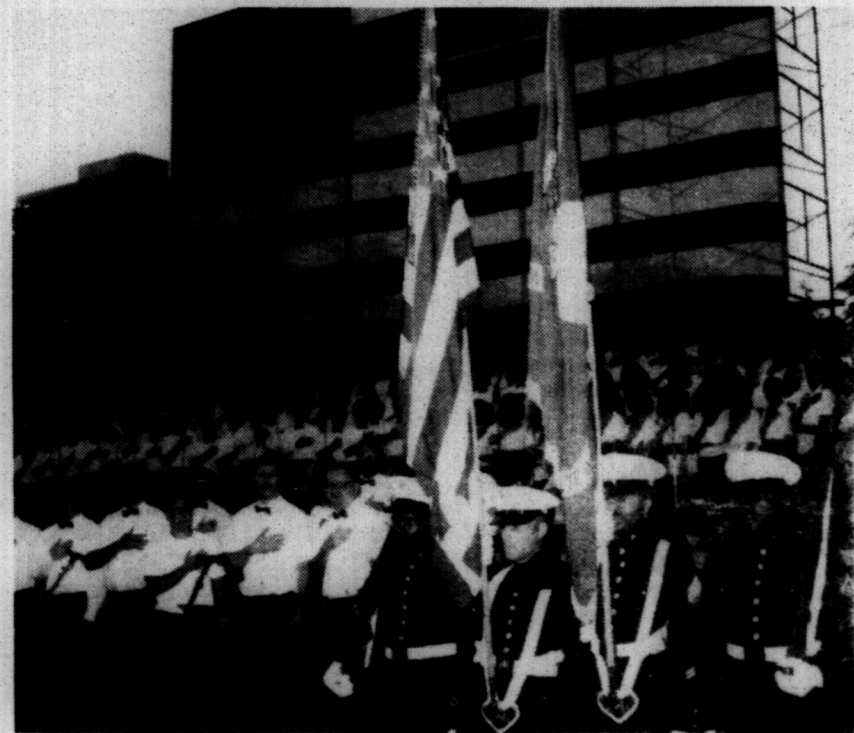
Franklin Denham, music minister at Highland, said the church's Independence Day observance has grown over the years from a small part of the morning worship service to a major church event.

"When I came here 15 years ago, I started a 12-15 minute observance in the morning service. Last year was our first year to perform a full-blown musical," he said.

A moving rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" will be performed this year while a giant U.S. flag rises slowly behind the choir, he added.

Denham also pointed to the large number of visitors at the last year's event, estimating that half the people who attended had not been to the church before. Most stayed for an ice cream social after the concert, he said.

Parkway Church in Jackson is planning a two-day celebration that will begin at 6 p.m. on July 3 with a swimming party at the Southwest



Choir members of First Church, Jackson, recite the Pledge of Allegiance June 27 as a U.S. Marine color guard stands at attention during the July 4 outdoor celebration at the church. Baptist churches around the state are planning Independence Day events that underscore their strong belief in God and country. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

YMCA pool, complete with hamburgers and hot dogs, according to church administrator Jehu Brabham. A patriotic service will be held at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, with U.S. Sen. Trent Lott as featured speaker. That service will be followed by dinner on the ground at 12:15 p.m.

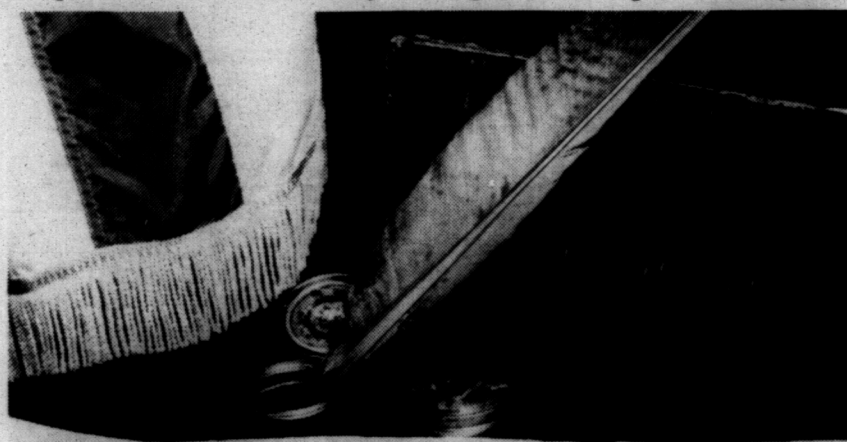
Brabham said the annual observance is a good way for members of the Parkway family to enjoy relaxed fellowship, which is often missing from people's lives because of modern pressures and demands. A dinner on the ground had been held earlier in the summer, and was so well-received that others are planned through Labor Day.

"We have had good success with

the family activities. A lot of people will be staying in town for the holiday, and a lot of people will be in town visiting families in our church," he said.

All the churches surveyed see July 4 celebrations as an important means of reaching people for Christ, given the large number of visitors who attend the events around the state. Some churches, like First Church, Jackson, include an invitation in their programs. Others do not include an invitation, but stress the close relationship between God and country.

"The flavor is evangelistic; this is not a political rally," Brabham pointed out.



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

For freedom
Christ has set us free;
and let therefore...

Chinese persecution

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — China's crackdown on underground Christian churches continues into its fifth year and is not easing, according to a new report issued by Puebla Institute, a human rights group based in Washington, D.C.

Reports collected by Puebla in recent months indicate that as many as 104 Chinese religious leaders are currently known to be imprisoned or detained; under house arrest; restricted in movement or association; or under close surveillance. The report identified continued persecution, such as increases in sentencing by decree, more torture, and government commitment to end "illegal" religious activity.

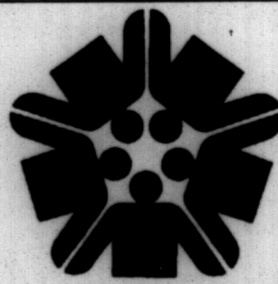
China's 63 million Protestants are required to register their churches with the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of Protestant Churches of China, and those who seek to avoid government oversight risk arrest, torture, fines, and confiscation of property. The Minister of Public Security has called religion one of six "hostile forces" that could undermine the government. The Chinese communist party has called for the elimination of illegal or unregistered religious groups and for harsh punishment of anyone who colludes with foreign forces to the detriment of the country's unity and stability.

Starkville lauded

Representatives from Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center (MBCDC) have been calling on business people and professionals in the Starkville area to express appreciation for the manner in which the organization's year-old outpatient facility has been accepted in the Starkville area. "The purpose of the visits is to recognize the community's support for our Starkville outpatient program," said Lem Miller, Starkville center director.

Plans are also underway in Starkville to begin a chapter of Alpha, the statewide MBCDC alumni organization started in 1976.

Treatment programs for adolescents and adults at the Starkville center are managed and administered by MBCDC in Jackson, the state's oldest non-profit treatment center. For more information, call (601) 323-8060 in Starkville or 1-800-962-6868 toll-free statewide.



Looking back...

10 years ago

Mississippi WMU president Pattie Dent was on hand as the first concrete was poured for the new WMU national headquarters in Birmingham.

20 years ago

Earl Kelly, pastor of Ridgecrest Church in Jackson, was unanimously elected to succeed W. Douglas Hudgins as executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

30 years ago

Gore Springs Church, Grenada Association, has experienced a run of members surrendering to Christian service, with eight people walking the aisle in the last few weeks.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Understanding the controversy

The Houston Convention was better than the average and could be the best since the controversy began among Southern Baptists. Ed Young tried to be conciliatory in presiding and with but one or two exceptions there was a friendly spirit. Some folks were not too hospitable toward President Bill Clinton's church, demanding they cast him out. Immanuel Church, Little Rock, is an autonomous body and can accept or reject anyone they choose. Will every church in the SBC question its members and cast out all who do not agree with the church covenant? I wish President Clinton would change his mind about abortion and gays, and about homosexuals in the military. Most SBC people abhor his stance but Immanuel is still an autonomous church.

Another untoward event was a pamphlet released at the Southeastern Seminary booth titled "Understanding the Controversy" and written by the president, Paige Patterson. This was a three-column outline (conservative, neo-liberal-

ism, and classical liberalism) with schools, professors, and pastors all neatly labeled. Patterson is the self-styled architect of the fundamental/conservative effort of Southern Baptists and has used labels frequently. He later stopped the release of the pamphlet and said he did not intend for it to be released.

He named three present SBC seminary presidents, Russell Dilday of Southwestern, Roy Honeycutt of Southern, and Milton Ferguson of Midwestern, along with "most Baptist state paper editors," in the neo-orthodoxy or new liberalism column. Dilday called it another "Paigerism" and said Patterson falsely accuses "me and Southwestern Seminary in an apparent attempt to lure confused students to his school." Ferguson said it is "gross misrepresentation of my theological convictions." Honeycutt made some comments but accepted Patterson's recall in good faith.

Many of the state editors were pastors prior to becoming editors.

Most whom I know are conservative but feel strongly there are two sides to the controversy and Baptists need to hear from both sides. This editor considers himself to be conservative and has been preaching the inerrant Word of God since 1947. The peculiar manner with which Patterson outlined the biblical beliefs and the adherents will likely confuse the controversy rather than shed light on it. Patterson later stated: "I did not authorize its use and deeply regret it has been distributed." He admits in the preface the danger of oversimplification and misrepresentation but continues on to oversimplify and misrepresent.

Such instances should not overshadow the good things accomplished at the convention. The preaching was great and built up the kingdom, missions was underscored as being what we are about, and there was even the flickering hope of reconciliation. Let us "adorn the doctrine of God" and continue to serve Him who is worthy.

For such a time as this?

By Michael Whitehead

These are difficult times in our cities and towns, in our nation, and in our world. People problems exceed public solutions. Governments are extended beyond their means to meet needs. The world needs new leaders, with new solutions, new resources, and new ideas. But what can I do about it? What difference can one person really make?

Ask a young Jewish girl named Esther. Her people lived in exile under the domination of King Ahasuerus, better known by his Greek name Xerxes I (Esther 1:1). They had no vote, no influence, no power to control their own lives, let alone their government or their culture. The king reigned as he wished, in all his opulent materialism, racism, and sexism. If anyone had good reason to feel helpless, it was Esther.

But then God intervened in the affairs of men. Drafted in a royal beauty contest (2:8) and chosen by the king to become the new queen (2:17), Esther suddenly found herself catapulted into the lap of luxury, living in the king's palace, enjoying the king's favor like no other person in his vast realm of 127 provinces.

Then racial and religious bigotry struck. An anti-Semitic advisor to the king, named Haman, tricked the king into ordering the deaths of all the Jews in the land. Esther's

cousin, Mordecai, who was like a father to her, discovered the plot and told Esther that she must intervene with the king to save her people. But to do so would risk more than her comfortable place in the king's palace. She would risk her very life if she violated the custom of the day by approaching the king without an invitation and if she also disclosed her secret that she was Jewish. Young Queen Esther must have thought, "Taking such risk is foolish. I am only one person. What can I do?"

But wise cousin Mordecai reminded her why she was there. God had placed her there for a purpose, not for her comfort. God loved his people and had a plan to save them. Esther could either cooperate with God's plan or miss it, in which case God might simply remove her and use somebody else. In a key verse, Mordecai said, "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14 NIV).

Esther took the risk — called "living by faith" (2 Cor. 5:7) — and God worked sovereignty to save her life and her people. The king's heart was prepared to

receive her, and the murderous Haman wound up hanging from his own gallows (7:10).

What difference can one citizen make? History is full of examples of the difference, for good or for ill, that one person's vote has made on issues which shaped the future:

In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.

In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.

In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the union.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

In 1923, one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi party.

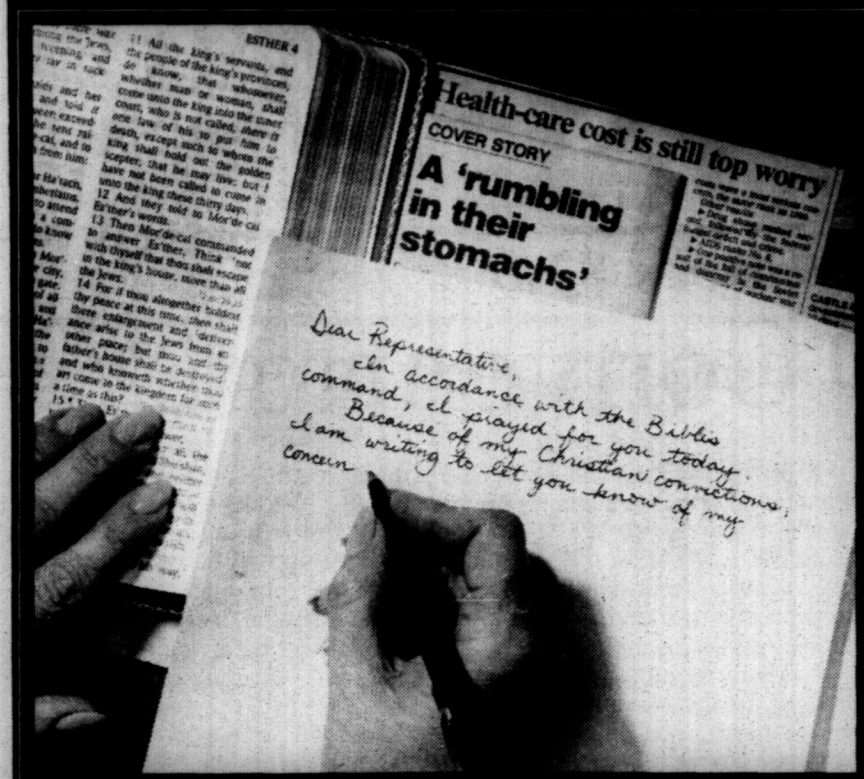
In 1941, one vote saved Selective Service — just weeks before Pearl Harbor.

What does God want you to do, Citizen Christian? Are you registered to vote? Do you vote your Bible-based values? Should you run for public office, whether school board, city council, or Congress? What difference can you make under the sovereign control of God? Who knows but that you have come to the place where God has you today for such a time as this?

Whitehead is general counsel and director of Christian citizenship and religious liberty concerns, CLC.

'For such a time as this?'

(Esther 4:14)



Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday
July 4, 1993

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

THE FRAGMENTS

In 2043 will they read about us?

Estus Mason brought in a copy of the February 24, 1944, issue of the Baptist Record. He was pastor at Lyon at that time. The paper had been folded, spindled, and yellowed but was still readable. Hyman Appelmann, Jewish evangelist, was conducting a meeting in McComb in which 568 people professed faith in Christ. B.E. Phillips, pastor at New Hebron, wrote an article on "Justification," in a series on Baptist doctrine.

The WMU, Mrs. D.C. Simmons, Jackson, recording secretary, was preparing for the Home Mission offering. Evangelist Barney Walker assisted pastor Dan Moulder in a "meeting" at Pine Grove in Simpson County. Apparently the Baptist Record office kept a list of visitors and Gerald Riddell of Laurel, Webb Brame of Yazoo City, Mrs. E.C. Fishel of Hattiesburg, and Van H. Hardin of Ackerman had stopped by.

"A Friend" wrote of how much she enjoyed the paper. "I have five brothers in service and a brother-in-law who is a Japanese prisoner." She wanted the Baptist Record sent to all of them. The tide of war was beginning to change. Four months hence, the Allies invaded France and in October 1944 U.S. troops invaded Leyte in the Philippine Islands.

Mississippi churches contributed

a total of \$282,187 through the Cooperative Program in 1943. The present CP budget is \$22,452,000. Factoring in the economy, war, and inflation, the stewardship record of 1943 was not too bad.

Mississippi College would welcome 224 new Naval students in March. E.C. Williams and Carolyn Madison of the Sunday School Department told of the rapid growth at Clear Branch in Rankin County — from 56 to 135 in six months. Aubrey J. Wild headed the Department of Training, and Bracey Campbell wrote the Sunday School lesson.

Readers could save big dollars by mixing your own cough medicine in your kitchen. It called for syrup, sugar, and Pinex, and "loosens phlegm, soothes the irritated membrane, helps to clear the air passages, and helps you rest at night." Fasteeth was preventing "slippery or irritation" and the Quintuplets were taking "Musterole" for chest colds.

Page 13 registered an attempt at humor as appreciated by Editor A.L. Goodrich. "It's difficult for a man to tell a woman's exact age," remarks a magistrate. "It's practically impossible for a woman to do it."

Thanks, Estus. We appreciate the paper.

— GH

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Saves \$1,000 per day

Convention Board OK's Carey debt refinancing

By Tim Nicholas

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in a called meeting last week, unanimously approved a refinancing plan for William Carey College's \$8 million in debts.

The plan will take advantage of lower interest rates and will "almost halve the original debt service" from \$3,700 per day in late 1989 to \$1,900, according to Carey President Jim Edwards. A renegotiated loan at lower rates in 1991 moved debt service to \$2,900 per day. The new plan will save an additional \$361,000 per year.

The refinancing plan involves taking a mortgage on Carey's coast property and two or three of its Hattiesburg dormitories. The Mississippi Baptist Convention's constitution requires convention board approval whenever property is mortgaged.

The plan calls for sale of tax exempt bonds issued by the Mississippi Educational Facility Authority (MEFA) and purchased by Sallie Mae Corporation, a private institution making loans to colleges and universities.

The convention will send a portion of Carey's monthly Cooperative Program allotment directly to Sallie Mae Corporation. Bond sale proceeds would consolidate all of Carey's debts including higher interest bonds, a commercial bank note, issuance costs, and \$400,000 in critical capital needs.

In the plan, at no time would the Mississippi Baptist Convention be expected to pay more than the regular allotment of Cooperative Program funds which would go to Carey. Presently those annual funds are about \$1,438,000.

President Edwards noted that

since 1989, the college has reduced the principal on its debt by more than a million dollars and has more than doubled its full time equivalent number of students. A total of 2,032 are registered on the Hattiesburg, New Orleans, and Gulf Coast campuses. He said assets of the college total \$15 million with an endowment of \$3.2 million.

The called board meeting is to be paid for by Carey. The board would ordinarily meet in August, too late to approve the refinancing plan prior to its June 30 closing date.

Board Executive Director-Treasurer Bill Causey said that earlier steps in financing saved the college. "Now we are taking steps to cause the college to prosper."

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.

FMB European director Floyd dismisses associate

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's new Europe director will replace one of his two top administrators, gearing up his own program in what has become one of Southern Baptists' fastest-growing foreign fields.

Area director John Floyd, elected by trustees in February, told associate area director J. Thomas Warrington, a former Mississippian, to step down June 23 and asked him to consider interviewing for another job at the Foreign Mission Board.

Warrington declined to comment on his dismissal from the Europe office or his future plans but said he might have something to say later.

Newly elected FMB President Jerry A. Rankin said he hopes it will be possible for Warrington to continue work at the board in some capacity.

Floyd will look for someone with missionary experience in Europe and a "different match of gifts" than Warrington, who has 13 years experience at the board as a missionary and staff mem-

ber. Floyd said the decision was not related to months of upheaval in Europe over philosophical differences of opinion between board trustees and some staff and missionaries.

Like Warrington, the new associate would work in the board's offices in Richmond, Va., as a counterpart to field-based administrators in Europe. Floyd, a former missionary to the Philippines but most recently vice president at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, will move to Europe after he acquaints himself with the home office.

Warrington, 48, has worked for the board's Europe office for two years. He was a missionary to Costa Rica for six years until 1982 and rejoined the board in 1986 as a consultant to help guide missionary candidates through the appointment process. In June 1991 former area director Keith Parker tapped him as associate area director for Europe.

Floyd affirmed Warrington's strong counseling and pastoral skills. Many missionaries say

they have benefited from those skills during months of turmoil and uncertainty. But in building a team for the future, Floyd said he needs a person with a "different match of gifts."

Floyd decided to dismiss Warrington in consultation with Sam James, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Questioned about the dismissal, James and Floyd said Warrington's relationship to the former administration was not a factor in their decision.

Warrington was associate pastor of churches in Louisiana and Mississippi before missionary appointment to Costa Rica, where he was a general evangelist.

He received a bachelor of science degree from Belhaven College, Jackson, and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He did clinical studies in pastoral care and counseling at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Memorial Hospital Systems in Houston.

Croll writes for the FMB.

Joel Gregory offered dean of chapel post at Southern Seminary

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Joel Gregory, Southern Baptists' best known unemployed preacher, has been offered the job of dean of the chapel at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Last September, Gregory abruptly resigned the pastorate of First Church in Dallas — the Southern Baptist Convention's largest church — in a leadership dispute with the congregation's senior pastor, W.A. Criswell.

Gregory, a Foreign Mission Board trustee, also was chairman of the committee that nominated Jerry Rankin as FMB president. Rankin was elected June 14.

Al Mohler, Southern's president-elect, said through a seminary spokesman June 15 that he would have no comment on Gregory's situation. Gregory could not be reached for comment.

However, Gregory and his family visited the seminary's Louisville campus June 24-25,

where the possibility of his employment was widely known by seminary faculty, staff, and students. He was involved in several meetings with faculty and staff members and was the guest of honor at a reception the evening of June 24, seminary sources confirmed.

Knowledgeable sources on campus, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said Mohler apparently has offered Gregory the position but Gregory has not decided whether he will accept it.

Exact details on what Gregory's responsibilities would entail could not be determined. Dean of the chapel would be a new position, apparently replacing some of the duties currently held by Bill Cubine, seminary pastor. Cubine, however, apparently would remain on staff as seminary pastor.

Wingfield is news director of WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky.

New Orleans alumni climax seminary's 75th anniversary

HOUSTON — New Orleans Seminary replaced its traditional alumni luncheon this year with an alumni breakfast attended by nearly 400 persons.

Diamond anniversary awards were presented by Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon, and national alumni association president, to J. Hardee Kennedy and President Landrum Leavell. Kennedy, professor emeritus of Old Testament and Hebrew, served at the seminary for 34 years, as a professor, as dean of the school of theology, and as the seminary's first vice

president for academic affairs. He now lives in Meridian. Leavell was honored both for his 19-year administrative tenure — the longest of any of the school's six previous presidents — and for "leading the seminary to its greatest growth" over the past 75 years.

Alumni elected Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, as president of the national alumni association; Wayne L. DuBose of Shreveport, La., president-elect; John M. Huelskoetter of New Milford, Conn., secretary; and Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, treasurer.



HOUSTON — During the New Orleans Seminary's recent alumni and friends breakfast held in Houston during the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, J. Hardee Kennedy (right), of Meridian, and Landrum P. Leavell II (left), formerly of Gulfport, received diamond anniversary awards. Gene Henderson (center), national alumni association president and pastor of First Church, Brandon, made the presentations.



Batesville church goes north

Shady Grove Church, Batesville, recently returned from a summer mission trip to the Effingham, Ill., area. There, the 38 members of the group conducted two Vacation Bible Schools and five Backyard Bible Clubs. One hundred sixty-four enrolled in those Bible schools, and two professions of faith were reported. John Stewart is pastor, Shady Grove.

Discipleship Training presents Gold Awards

The Associational Gold Discipleship Training Award was presented to four associations at the recent Associational Leader Training events.

The associations receiving these awards included: Warren, Randy Rich, Discipleship Training director; Yalobusha, T.D. Scarborough, associational director; Calhoun, Terrell McGreger, director; and Pike Association, Gary Creech, associational director. The associations have each received a plaque with the name of the director engraved.

Recognition of outstanding work as gauged by the Gold Award

application was made at the recent meetings. Points were scored for growth in association enrollment and average attendance; team enlistment; team training at Gulfshore; conducting "M" Night, youth rallies, and associational leadership training events; as well as cumulative points for other events and emphases in their associations.

These associations are models for other associations in conducting quality work and promoting Discipleship Training in the local churches. These associations have done outstanding work in helping churches.

Miss. SBC committee members, trustees

Executive Committee: Larry Otis, layman, Calvary Church, Tupelo; Russell Bush Jr., pastor, Main St. Church, Hattiesburg; Ruel May, MD, First Church, Jackson.

Foreign Mission Board: Daniel Watts Jr., pastor, Raymond Road Church, Jackson; Billy Joe Beckett, retired pastor, Mt. Zion, Columbus; Bobby Williamson, pastor, Park Place, Brandon.

Home Mission Board: Greg Martin, pastor, Commission Road Church, Long Beach; Liston Morris, layman, Columbia; Louie Odom, layman, Pearl.

Baptist Sunday School Board: Ken Alford, pastor, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; Burnie Brooks Jr., layman, West Ellisville Church, Ellisville; Lynda Ruth Barfield, layperson, Main St. Church, Hattiesburg.

Annuity Board: Sonny Adkins, pastor, Forest Church, Forest; Jack Colvin, layman, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

Southern Seminary: John Allen, pastor, First Church, Richton; Bill Causey, executive director/treasurer, MBCB, Jackson; J.D. Cutler, layman, Pascagoula.

Southwestern Seminary: Billy Brumfield, pastor, Rolling Creek Church, Quitman.

Southeastern Seminary: Dwight L. Smith, pastor, West Ellisville Church, Ellisville.

New Orleans Seminary: Jerry Adkins, layman, First Church, Biloxi; Patrick Pfrimmer, pastor, Toomsaba Church, Toomsaba; William H. Hanberry, layman, South 28th Church, Hattiesburg; Vernon May, retired pastor, member of First Church, Madison.

Midwestern Seminary: Randy McHan, pastor, Edon Church, Stringer.

Golden Gate Seminary: Richard Johnson, pastor, Parkview Church, Greenville.

Historical Commission: Roy Myers, pastor, First Church, Meadville.

Brotherhood Commission: Robert E. Hill, pastor, Calvary Church, Cleveland.

Education Commission: Van D. Quick, Mississippi College, Clinton; C. Frazier Landrum, layman, Edwards.

Christian Life Commission: Curtis W. Caine Sr., MD, First Church, Jackson.

Radio and TV Commission: D.J. Benson, pastor, Salem Heights Church, Laurel.

Stewardship Commission: Tho Ngoc Dang, pastor, Ocean Springs.

Committee on Committees: Malcolm Lewis, pastor, Northcrest, Meridian; Barbara Williamson, layperson, Gulfport.

Committee on Nominations: Albert McMullan, pastor, First Church, Stonewall; D. Wayne Ross, layman, Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Rankin writes missionaries, calls his election "a miracle"

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — In a letter to nearly 4,000 missionaries around the world, the new president of the Foreign Mission Board called his June 14 election by board trustees "a miracle."

"With all that has been happening in the Southern Baptist Convention as well as a sequence of discouraging developments related to the Foreign Mission Board, few of us would dare hope that a new president would be selected, not only from within the staff, but even from off the field!" wrote Jerry A. Rankin, the veteran Asia missionary and mission administrator elected president.

"I am grateful for the many people who had confidence enough in me to recommend me to the search committee," Rankin said, adding in a humorous acknowledgment of the difficult job ahead: "I'm still not sure if they were friends or enemies!"

In his first full week in office, Rankin also met several times with Foreign Mission Board staff to get acquainted, share views, answer questions, and assure them of his focus on a worldwide missions agenda. He told them he plans no immediate restructuring of the staff or organization and foresees no additional staff "downsizing" in the near future. In May the board eliminated 37 jobs, or 8% of its 450 home office positions, because of downturns in financial support.

He praised staff members for "staying with the task and sticking by the stuff" during demoralizing times.

Rankin was elected June 14 by a 59-14 vote in a called trustee meeting in Houston, despite opposition by some trustees and SBC leaders because of his openness to the continuing operation of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit outlined in the New Testament. Trustee Paul Pressler of Texas, who voted against Rankin in a previous roll call vote, successfully moved that the vote be made unanimous "in the spirit of harmony."

Now Rankin faces the task of restoring full confidence and support for an agency shaken by repeated differences between trustees and some staff and missionaries over mission philosophy and administration.

Rankin said it would be "premature" to project changes in mission strategy before consulting trustees, FMB staff, and missionaries. But he listed three "general areas of personal concern and vision" in his letter:

(1) A need to "move back toward field-generated strategies. We have such a great diversity in history, culture, responsiveness, and maturity of Baptist work throughout the world; local missions and area staff should have more ownership in planning and methodologies."

Earlier, he told Baptist Press he would seek to find "balance" between the heavily field-oriented approach under the 26-year presidency of Baker James Cauthen and the more centralized strategy dur-

ing the 13-year presidency of his predecessor, R. Keith Parks.

(2) Continue "and even enhance" efforts to reach World A — a quarter of the globe that has had little or no chance to hear the Christian gospel. "But we should also concentrate on reaping the harvest that God has ripened on fields that are open and responsive."

(3) Provide "channels for Southern Baptist churches in the U.S. to be involved in missions overseas. They represent tremendous potential and resources, and we are an SBC agency to serve our churches. This will be a challenge and will take some restructuring, but God will give us wisdom and his kingdom will be extended as we work together in unity."

Rankin's nomination by the trustee search committee surprised and delighted many missionaries who had appealed for an experienced missionary as their new leader, but had expected the naming of a more prominent convention leader to the board presidency.

In his letter to the missionaries, Rankin admitted he never expected to be nominated, even after meeting with the search committee.

"I felt the initial interviews were simply opportunities God had given me to share some insights and convictions with the commit-

tee," he wrote. "I was reticent to meet with them later in the process, but recognizing that all of you and thousands of others were praying for them, I felt compelled to respond to their sense of God's leadership. It was obvious that nothing would come of my involvement with them except through God's control. The unanimous recommendation was evidence of His intervention."

Rankin praised Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener for his "superb leadership" as interim president after Parks retired last October, earlier than he had planned. He said he is excited that Kammerdiener, a 30-year veteran of foreign missions, has agreed to continue as executive vice president, a post he has held since 1989.

He cited encouraging statistics from the mission fields for 1992, such as more than 250,000 baptisms and 1,600 churches started by Baptists associated with Southern Baptist missionaries, and noted an upturn in candidates for career and short-term missions.

"Although there has been a downturn in finances, the final report on the 1992 Lottie Moon offering was the second highest in history — \$80,980,881," he reported.

MasterBuilder Workshop scheduled for September

A MasterBuilder Workshop will be held Sept. 16-18 at the Winston County Associational Office in Louisville, for all who have received MasterLife certification. The workshops on Thursday, Sept. 16, and Friday, Sept. 17, will be from 6-9 p.m., and on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The workshop will be conducted by Larry Goff of Ellisville, a certified MasterLife and MasterBuilder leader.

A MasterBuilder Workshop is designed to help participants learn how to make disciples. Each participant, who must be a MasterLife alumnus, will learn how to make disciples at every state of development from new converts to multi-

plying leaders.

The participants will develop plans for making disciples based on the first seven units of MasterBuilder; develop a use plan for MasterBuilder; and use MasterBuilder to equip leaders to lead LIFE courses and Adult Discipleship resources.

The cost of the workshop is \$75, which includes all materials. Those who are interested in the workshop should make their deposit with the associational office or the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Creech receives annual award

Gary Creech, pastor of Friendship Church, Pike Association, and the association's Discipleship Training director, has been chosen as the outstanding Director of the Year by the staff of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). The award goes each year to the associational director considered a model in his area of work.

Each year the award winner is chosen on the basis of accumulation of points as listed on the Gold Associational Discipleship Training application.

"Bro. Gary has enlisted a strong

team, has provided training for them, has conducted "M" Nights regularly, conducted Associational Training events for church leaders, encouraged church leaders, and been faithful to the job. Bro. Gary is a strong supporter of Discipleship Training and believes it is an important work of the church," reported Mose Dangerfield, director of the Discipleship Training Department of MBCB. "We congratulate Gary on this outstanding achievement," he added.

A plaque was presented to him at the recent Associational Leadership Training meeting conducted at First Church, Hattiesburg.

Objectives, convocation plans drafted by Elder-initiated group

CHICAGO (BP) — The coordinating workgroup for the "Coalition of Hope," formed on the eve of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston, met June 24-25 in Chicago, drafting a mission statement and six objectives, and setting in motion plans for a nationwide "Convocation of Hope."

The workgroup, which includes former Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder, focused on a 15-page document Elder released in May on the state of Southern Baptist mission trends and his recommendations for "calling the family back together."

Elder's plan calls for reunification of the various factions within the SBC under the banner of missions. Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus of Oklahoma City's First Church and a past SBC president, has joined Elder, now a university professor in Nashville, in the effort.

Rodney Osborn, a physician from Peoria, Ill., and convener of the workgroup, drafted the version of the vision/mission statement and objectives released following the session, which was not open to news media or other non-workgroup members.

Those objectives include:

— "To inform Baptist people of the Mission/Purpose of our vision and the opportunity new levels of commitment will mean to world evangelism."

— "To mobilize Southern Baptist church members in support of the historic Baptist organizational missions center."

— "To stimulate state conventions and Southern Baptist Boards and Agencies with the imperative

of world evangelism and to new levels of missions support."

— "To call Southern Baptists to prayer and repentance for slowness and intransigence, however unintentional, in our response to God's fresh call to world evangelism."

— "To encourage the building of trust and fellowship among the Southern Baptist family as a missions people."

— "To foster such changes in Southern Baptist structures as may be necessary to better serve the Great Commission and to provide accountability."

"It is our intention to start from this point forward without looking back, without recrimination... and without rehashing what has happened before" toward the goal of world evangelization, Osborn told the *Illinois Baptist* newsjournal. Acknowledging the fourth objective called for repentance, he explained, "We think we are all guilty. No guilt is implied unless it is with all of us."

"Our next task will be the invitation of the executive director (or his designee if unable to attend) and president (or the vice president in the president's absence) of every state convention at a meeting in Nashville, possibly on Monday, Sept. 20, when they would each be preparing to attend the SBC Executive Committee meetings as observers," Osborn wrote in an accompanying statement.

At that meeting, the representatives from each state convention would be asked to "call/elect/commission/select" five people from their own states to attend the convocation. The workgroup

suggests those who are selected include men, women, pastors, laity, ethnics, and other minorities.

"At the Convocation of Hope from the some 300 individuals in attendance will come whatever next steps should be undertaken to complete the mission of the coalition," Osborn said. "This may take the form of a commission that ultimately would have the responsibility, if so determined, for whatever report/recommendation/resolution the convocation might deem appropriate to bring before and/or present to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Fla., in June of 1994."

Any decision as to how to proceed will come from the "broad-based representation that this convocation must represent," Osborn wrote.

During their Chicago meeting, the workgroup met for a time of prayer "seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit in pursuing the will of God for the group before each work session," Osborn said.

Osborn is immediate past president of both the Illinois Baptist State Association and the Fellowship of State Convention Presidents.

Others present for the meeting were Richard J. Maples, president, Baptist General Convention of Texas; F. Joe Baker, president, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio; Rodney H. Travis, president, Missouri Baptist Convention; and R. Quinn Pugh, executive director, Baptist Convention of New York. Cecil C. Sims, executive director-treasurer, Northwest Baptist Convention, was unable to attend.



Best of both training worlds

First Church, Winona, has entered a potential teacher/leader training course using the Conducting Potential Sunday School Worker Training resources and ideas gleaned from Breakthrough: Sunday School Work. Upon completion of 13 weeks of sessions in those materials, training students who feel called to teach will enter a personal coaching phase, and later attend two sessions taught by Hardy Denham of William Carey College, based on *How to Guide Bible Study*, by Herschel Hobbs. Members of the newly-formed Sunday School Council, in charge of the training course, are, left to right: Joby Jackson, Alan Boone, Cindy Boone, Sherry Cotton, Nathan Crenshaw, Tee Golding, Andrea Collins, and David Collins.

New Orleans Seminary begins new program for "bivo" education ministers

By Debbie Moore

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans Seminary has launched a new Christian Education Associate program specifically designed to meet the needs of bivocational ministers of education.

Classes begin Aug. 23 and will be offered in two locations: Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and Pearl River Association office, Carriere. They will be offered one night per week for eight weeks; the cost is \$75 per student.

The first course to be offered this fall will be Church Programs. Future courses to be offered include Church Administration, Baptist Distinctives, Southern Baptist Curriculum and How to Use It, Developing Leadership in the Church, Evangelism, Old Testament Survey, and New Testament Survey.

Coordinator of the program is Chester Vaughn, director of New Orleans Seminary's undergraduate extension center campus in Mississippi and an instructor in Christ-

ian education at New Orleans Seminary.

"The concept of the Christian Education Associate program makes it possible for many more churches to have a person on the church staff to give leadership to the education program on a part-time basis," Vaughn said.

Vaughn most recently served as program director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He has also been a consultant for the Sunday School Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, as well as a minister of education at First Church, Hattiesburg; Gentilly Church, New Orleans; and First Church, Hazlehurst.

"Many churches could adopt the concept of a bivocational education worker to assist in the education program of the church," Vaughn said.

"In the past there has been much success with both bivocational pastors and bivocational music directors. Perhaps now is the time for churches to give serious consideration to bivocational education workers."

"Such workers could be discovered within the church or community," Vaughn said. "The person might be an educator in the local school system, a retired teacher, administrator, or anyone with a desire to work as a minister of education. By working 10 to 20 hours each week, a bivocational minister of education could help improve the ministry of teaching in the local church."

For more information, contact Chester Vaughn by calling (601) 956-6285; or write him at 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211.

Moore is PR director, NOBTS.

SBC now 'on trial,' Clinton's pastor says

By Mark Kelly

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Convention is on trial, and SBC churches must decide for themselves whether the convention still deserves their support, said a pastor whose congregation recently survived an attempted ouster from the SBC.

Immanuel Church in Little Rock, Ark., was the target of a motion to unseat its messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 15-17 in Houston.

The church was criticized for failing to censure its most prominent member — President Bill Clinton — for his views on homosexuality. (The motion would have expelled the church from participation in the convention, although its messengers could apply for registration next year.)

"The question is not whether our church is good enough for the Southern Baptist Convention," said Immanuel's pastor, Rex Horne, June 20. "The question is, is the Southern Baptist Convention good enough for us?"

The motion to expel Clinton's church was offered to the SBC June 15 by Bo Hammock, a pastor from Lake Butler, Fla. The motion was debated at length by

the SBC credentials committee, which later voted unanimously to reaffirm the church's participation.

However, the SBC did pass a resolution denouncing Clinton's views on homosexuality and abortion — one of about 20 anti-Clinton resolutions proposed during the three-day convention.

Speaking to his congregation June 20, Horne decried the notoriety his church received during the SBC.

"We are not the ones on trial," he said. "The Southern Baptist Convention is the one on trial. We will never be judged because we are autonomous and independent. We will never be judged by another church or group of churches."

Horne lamented that an atmosphere has been created in the Southern Baptist Convention in which "ungrounded, unsubstantiated attacks" can be brought against congregations by individuals with "personal, secular, political agendas."

"A lot of people are rushing through those doors to put their name out and to make their statements, and they are neither people

that think nor are they people of integrity," Horne charged. "We pride ourselves... that (SBC) messengers are free to speak or to present business.... But are they free to use their freedom recklessly in impugning the integrity of a church like Immanuel?"

Horne pointed out that Immanuel contributed more than \$422,000 in 1992 through the Cooperative Program, ranking it 13th among more than 37,000 SBC churches. Since 1983, "during the heat of the controversy" in the Southern Baptist Convention, the congregation's Cooperative Program gifts have totaled more than \$3.7 million, he said.

Horne said he believes Southern Baptists "have entered what can be called the post-Cooperative Program era." Most Southern Baptist churches are decreasing the portion of their budgets that go to the SBC, Horne added.

Immanuel's members, meanwhile, are "proud of our historic commitment to the Cooperative Program and hope to maintain an exemplary level of involvement," he said.

Kelly is a free-lance writer living in Little Rock.

However you say His name

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capsules

MILITANT MUSLIMS THREATEN NEW CHRISTIANS IN ALGERIA: ALGIERS, Algeria (BP) — Christian workers are watching developments in Algeria closely as militant Muslims step up their efforts to take over the country. For now, the number of Christian believers and Christian groups continue to grow throughout the North African country as increasing numbers of Algerians turn to Christ. But Christian workers fear the Christian movement, still in its infancy, may be slowed or stopped if militant Muslims come to power and set up an Iran-style government. Hundreds of Algerians have accepted Christ as Savior in recent years and small clusters of believers have been organizing throughout the country. Christian workers who follow events in the country from outside estimate the total number of Christians is probably only a few thousand at this point. But in a solidly Muslim country such as Algeria, they consider the movement a startling and promising development.

FMB TO WEIGH GO-AHEAD OF ORGANIZATIONAL STUDY: RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A Massachusetts firm is the front-runner for what could become a half-million-dollar contract to study the organization and operations of the Foreign Mission Board, according to FMB official Bob Shoemaker. Some trustees, meanwhile, have questioned whether to proceed with plans for the study in light of recent layoffs, elimination of several volunteer programs, and the election of Jerry Rankin as new FMB president. Betty Swadley of Springfield, Mo., who left the trustee board after completing two four-year terms and was a policy subcommittee member, wrote to Rankin on June 2 to request in his first act as president that he ask the trustees and the policy subcommittee to stop the study. "I feel very uncomfortable about that decision — especially in the face of the downsizing (layoffs), program cutbacks (Tentmakers, Baptists Living Abroad, and others)," Swadley wrote.

CUBAN BAPTISTS RECEIVE BWA HELP IN MEDICINES, CHURCH RENOVATION: WASHINGTON (BP) — "The door has been opened for Baptists in Cuba to receive urgently needed medical supplies from Baptist World Aid," according to Paul Montacute, director of the relief and development division of the Baptist World Alliance. The promise that Cuban Baptists could receive medical supplies directly was good news for the country's Baptist leaders who want to be seen as "agents of help in this time of need," said Montacute. It also was good news because, like other Cubans, Baptists are feeling the severe effects of Cuba's devastated economy since the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union and a continuing U.S. blockade. Cuban Baptists also are deeply concerned about the poor state of their church buildings, Montacute said. "In fact, this is their No. 1 priority," he said. Baptist leaders in Cuba say their government currently is being very helpful in allowing them to repair their buildings and also build new ones, Montacute said.

BAPTIST EXECUTIVE DIES OF HEART ATTACK: GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Truman Kerr, assistant to the executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, died June 22 after suffering a massive heart attack at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in New Mexico. Kerr, 63, was attending the Church-Growth Sunday School Leadership Conference with his wife Faye. He suffered a heart attack after jogging around the Glorieta campus. He was able to make it back to the hotel before collapsing. He was pronounced dead on arrival at a Santa Fe hospital.



Garaywa summer staffers

Twenty-seven college-age young women are serving on the 1993 summer staff at Camp Garaywa during June and July. They will lead over 2,000 GAs through camp sessions incorporating mission and Bible studies, creative worship, crafts, camp fires, cookouts, and

the Adventure Course. The newest addition to the camp program is the Culture Camp, a simulation of life in Zimbabwe, in which a Zimbabwe national gives hands-on experiences to campers. (Photo by Teresa Dickens)

Music can aid grief process, Kentucky music leader says

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Music can help people deal with grief, says Joy Berger, a Baptist musician who recently completed a doctoral dissertation on music and grief.

"I'm a firm believer that music reaches the soul," said Berger, whose conclusions are based not only on her academic study but a real-life experience with grief.

Although few people would automatically associate music and pastoral care, Berger insists they are a natural mix. "We as musicians have been doing pastoral care for a long time," said Berger, who recently became part-time keyboard consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

She also recently completed a doctoral degree at Southern Seminary, drawing upon the guidance of both the music faculty and pastoral-care faculty. Her dissertation topic: "Music as a Catalyst for Pastoral Care within the Remembering Tasks of Grief."

Put in language even the tone-deaf can understand, Berger sought to show how people draw upon music as a source of both comfort and pain during the grieving process. Because music evokes memories of comfort and pain, it can be an important key to pastoral care, she contended.

She identified at least six things music helps people do: express feelings, activate memories, encourage community, facilitate sustaining worship, explore meanings, and foster personal and spiritual wholeness.

"Music can capsuleize a deep meaning from within. It can cut through and open up the soul," Berger said.

That's why some people are drawn to church during grief and others can't bear to attend at all, she continued.

"When people are going through loss and grief, often going to church is more painful than not going — standing in the same pew where you've stood with your spouse for 40 years and suddenly he or she isn't there."

On the other hand, sometimes hearing and singing familiar tunes of faith can comfort grieving Christians, she added.

From her own experience, Berger paints a picture of the grief process as a symphony of four seasons.

Fall is when the loss first breaks off in a person's life. Winter is when the "dark coldness that will never end" sets in. Spring is the time of planting new seeds in

faith. And summer is the time for bringing those seeds to fruition, to reinvest oneself in new aspects of life.

Although the distance from grief to joy seems immeasurable to a person who has suffered loss, there is hope, Berger advised. She points out that the words "mourning" and "morning" come from the same Latin root, meaning "from darkest midnight up through the break of day."

The healing power of the Christian faith found in that transition is a song Berger hopes to teach more Baptists to sing — and play.

Wingfield is news director for WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky.

Quotes worth quoting

"The Church still has a theology of the Holy Spirit, but it has no living consciousness of his presence and power. Theology without experience is like faith without works; it is dead. The energy of the flesh can run bazaars, organize amusements, and raise millions of dollars; but it is the presence of the Holy Spirit that makes a temple of the living God." — Samuel Chadwick, quoted in Good News magazine.

New Arabic Baptist Sunday School literature has been accepted "across the whole Arab world. We've seen tremendous results in church growth. A whole revival broke out in Egypt — as many as 20,000 new believers in various denominations." — Dale Thorne, FMB area director, Middle East and North Africa.

"Here (at Southern Seminary) I came to understand that Christ came to take away our sins, not our minds." — Roy Honeycutt, SBTS president, speaking at commencement.

"As Americans we enjoy the freedom to write controversial letters to the editor, worship as we please, speak up against injustices, and walk picket lines in strikes... although you may enjoy political, religious, and personal freedom, you can still be in bondage in the most crucial aspect of life — spiritual freedom." — Luis Palau, evangelist.

"You know you are getting old when thieves steal your cassette deck but leave your tapes." — Jackson Browne, in Pursuit magazine.

Missionary couple survives attack by drug-crazed robbers

By Mary E. Speidel

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP) — Four armed men — one wanted for killing a policeman — beat and robbed Southern Baptist missionaries Ed and Linda Ables at their home in Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 15.

The couple suffered lacerations and bruises and lost at least \$500 in the robbery. But they easily could have been killed, Mrs. Ables told Baptist Press. "In the middle of everything, we really saw how the Lord was protecting us," said the missionary, who is from Birmingham, Ala.

The attack occurred about 10 p.m. as Ables, from Fort Payne, Ala., was returning home from leading a conference on cults at a local Baptist church. Two thugs rushed inside the garage as he was parking the family car. The men pointed automatic pistols at Ables and demanded money. Meanwhile, two other armed robbers appeared and began beating Ables on the head with the butts of their pistols

and a sawed-off shotgun.

"They were completely wild. You could tell they were high on drugs," Mrs. Ables said. The Ableses assume the thugs wanted money to buy more drugs.

The men forced the couple into their bedroom and continued hitting Ables. The youngest attacker, who looked about 18, then struck Mrs. Ables on the head and face. He said he wanted jewelry and money.

"My face looks like a freight train hit it," said Mrs. Ables.

The robbers were at the missionaries' house only about 10 or 15 minutes, Mrs. Ables said, "but it seemed like an eternity."

Despite the trauma and injuries, Mrs. Ables said she already has seen something positive come from the experience. Several non-Christian neighbors told the couple "they could see that God was watching after us in a special way," she related.

Speidel writes for FMB.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 1, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

What Happens to the Money?

Have you ever wondered what happens to the money your church contributes to the Southern Baptist unified, voluntary missions and education funding system called the Cooperative Program?

The process begins in your church itself. Each fall your budget committee recommends the church budget to the congregation which votes on it. In that budget is a percentage allocation to the Cooperative Program.

Your church treasurer takes that percentage of your church's weekly receipts and mails it to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for further distribution.

As a part of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, your church participates in a large number of missions and ministries including leadership training, Christian higher education, and quality child care.

Each year, your church sends messengers to the annual business meeting, the Mississippi Baptist Convention. At the convention your representatives vote how much money they expect to raise the next year and make plans to utilize it for God's work in the state.

Messengers from your church also go to the annual Southern Baptist Convention where you get to vote on what is done with Cooperative Program money at the national level. Those funds help finance six seminaries, the home and foreign mission boards with more than 7,000 missionaries, the Radio and Television Commission and about 15 more Baptist agencies.

Presently 63 percent of the money given by the 2,000 Mississippi Baptist churches goes to Mississippi causes. The other 37 percent goes to Southern Baptist causes outside the state.

Whatever is voted by the state or national convention, is law. The money has to be used for whatever it is promised. And there are auditing

Article continued on back page

"I always thought that HOUSETOPS was for the church staff.... until I read about the training available to make me a better children's teacher. To learn more about this training, read about Focus on the Future, inside."



Attend

Church Media Library Week

**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
July 29-31, 1993**

(during Sunday School Leadership Conference)



Jackie Anderson



Pat Brown

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retired senior staff consultant in the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB in Nashville. She has co-authored and authored Church Media Library books and a regular contributor to the Church Media Library Magazine.

• **Processing** **with Pat Brown,**

new consultant in the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB in Nashville. Pat came to the board from the Southern Baptist Historical Commission where she served as librarian. She brings years of experience as a church librarian, professional librarian and conference leader.

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Vertical Files.***

*All reservations must be made directly with
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First
Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571,
phone: (601) 452-7261.*



PRAYERGRAM July 1 - 15, 1993

PRAY for the Search Committee of the Baptist World Alliance's Woman's Department, as they propose a person to take the position of Executive Director of the BWA Woman's Department. Beth MacClaren has served in this position since Nov. 1, 1987.

PRAY for the Unreached People groups of the world. There are 1.2 billion of these people. The two groups being suggested by the International Prayer Strategy Office of the Foreign Mission Board are the Lampungese (who live in the southernmost province of Sumatra, Indonesia) and the Tajiks (descendants of the ancient Persian empire, who live in about five countries—the largest group in Tajikistan a republic of the former Soviet Union.) The second largest group lives in Afghanistan. Write the FMB if you want to participate in praying for these people groups: International Prayer Strategy Office, Foreign Mission Board, P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767.

PRAY for Jack and Fay Barrowman, Volunteers in Missions area consultants with the Miami Baptist Association. This is an urgent need and a tremendous open door of opportunity. They have accepted positions as regional consultants and need someone to replace them in the Miami area. Ethnic associational consultants are greatly needed to recruit Black, Hispanic, Jamaican, and Haitian volunteers from the

Miami churches. Ethnic churches outnumber the Anglo churches and there are very few ethnic volunteers.

PRAY for Dave Gevock and his wife, Darla, who are Mission Service Corps volunteers directing the Baptist Student Union of Kansas State University, located in Manhattan, Kansas. Pray for the Gevocks as they direct a cultural project to Kazakhstan. This project began June 25 and will go until August 6, 1993.

PRAY for the different meetings held at Ridgecrest and Glorieta this summer. Pray for the leadership of all of our convention work. Pray that many people will feel the call of God to missions, both home and foreign.

PRAY for Sandra Nash, the new president of the Mississippi WMU. Thank God for Joan Tyler and all the Mississippi WMU presidents who contributed so much to the cause of the Kingdom.

PRAY for Jerry and Bobbye Rankin as they assume the tremendous responsibility of the presidency of the Foreign Mission Board. Ask God to give them strength, wisdom and the assurance that they are being upheld by prayer in their home state.

PRAY for the Baptist colleges of our state as they prepare for the fall session. Pray that the influence of our colleges will be positively Christian.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PRAYERLINE 969-PRAY

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Paul Powell, president and chief executive officer, Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

John Traylor, retired pastor, FBC, Monroe, La.

Loyd Allen, associate professor and head, Dept. of Religion and Philosophy, Mississippi College

Graham Smith, director of Church Music Dept., Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Scott Sontag, Music Department, Louisiana College

Special Women's Seminars led by:

Mary Catherine Gentry, assistant professor in communication at Mississippi College.

Registration fee is \$15 per person/\$20 per couple for both days, \$10 per person/\$15 per couple for one day. Full payment is requested with registration form.

Scholarships are available upon request to Miss. College Division of Continuing Education for this conference.

Registration Form - 1993 Ministers and Wives School

Name _____

Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Church _____

Denomination _____

Please check appropriately and circle whether only you or your wife will be attending:

I (my wife and I) will attend: _____ both days;
_____ Thursday only; _____ Friday only.
_____ I (my wife and I) will not stay on campus at night.
_____ I (my wife and I) plan to stay on campus Thurs. night
(\$12 per person/\$18 per couple, lines furnished)
_____ I (my wife and I) plan to attend the Thurs. evening banquet
(complimentary).

Wife's name, if attending _____

_____ I (my wife and I) am/are requesting a scholarship.

If not requesting scholarship, please enclose appropriate fee for each person attending (\$15 per person/\$20 per couple for both days or \$10 per person/\$15 per couple for one day, plus \$12 per person/\$18 per couple if staying on campus Thurs. night).

Amount enclosed \$ _____ **DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 1993.** Make check payable to **Mississippi College** and return to: Continuing Education, Mississippi College, Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058.

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July 15-17, 1993

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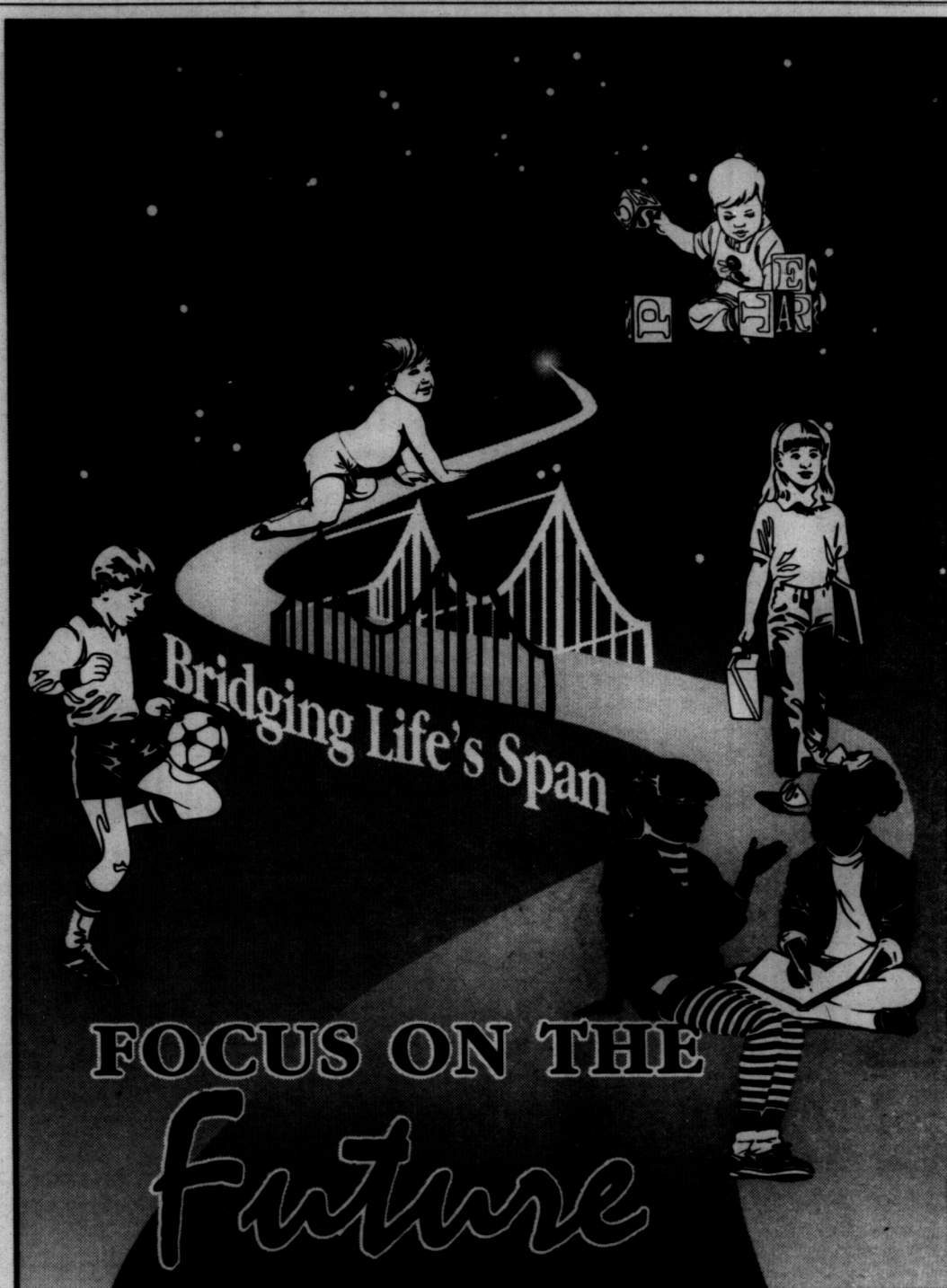
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Contact the Church Music Department for
registration information at 968-3800



First Baptist Church, Jackson
September 10-11, 1993

NOTICE

The **CHILDREN IN CRISIS** Conference listed in the Baptist Diary for November 19 and 20, 1993, has been canceled.

The content of the **BRIDGING LIFE'S SPAN** scheduled for September 10 and 11, 1993, will cover much of the same material. We encourage all Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Missions and Music leadership to attend some or all of the **BRIDGING LIFE'S SPAN** conference.

Registration flyers are available through the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Call 968-3800 to receive your registration form.

.....
Hattiesburg

July 16, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
University Baptist Church
3200 Arlington Loop
(one block south of Hardy Street, in
front of USM)

.....
Pass Christian

July 17, 1993, 11:00 a.m.
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Henderson Point

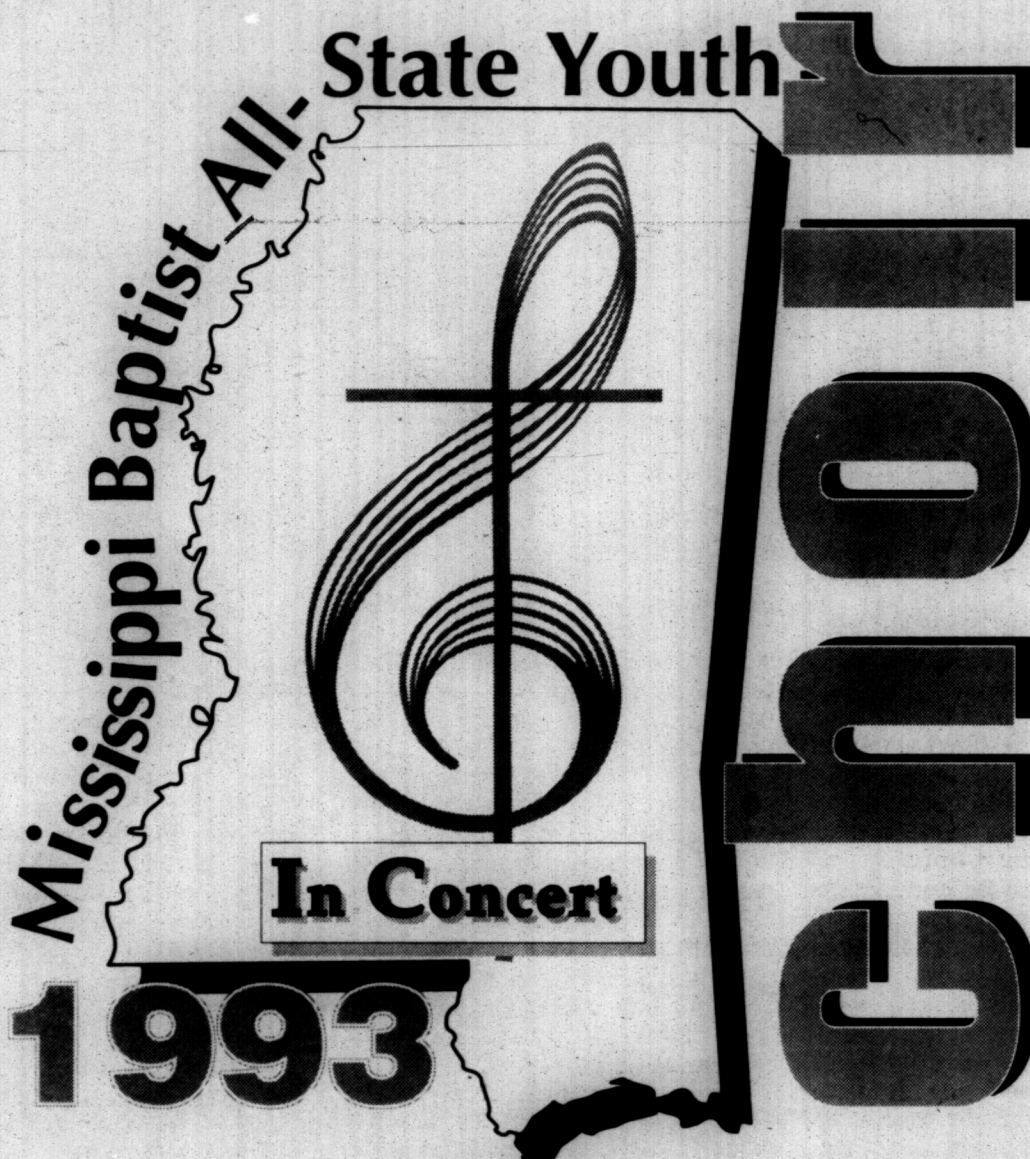
.....
Ocean Springs

July 17, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
Gulf Coast Youth Music Celebration
First Baptist Church
602 Washington Avenue
(corner of Washington and Porter)

.....
Laurel

July 18, 1993, 10:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church
607 West 5th Street

State Youth



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.....
Greenwood

July 18, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
500 W. Washington

.....
Oxford

July 19, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
North Oxford Baptist Church
Old Highway 7 North
(2 miles north of the square)

.....
Tupelo

July 20, 1993, 11:30 a.m.
West Jackson Street Baptist Church
1349 W. Jackson Street

.....
Jackson

July 20, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
Alta Woods Baptist Church
168 Colonial Drive

Article continued from front page

whatever it is promised. And there are auditing controls in place with the financial information always available to every Mississippi Baptist.

This begins a series concerning what happens to the money after it leaves your church.

Willie Lee Wells
Cooperative Program Champion

by Debbie Baird Buie

A popular automobile commercial pokes fun at a big-mouthed engineer who is demoted to the mail room. It follows the stereotype that a job in the mail room is among the lower positions on the organizational chart.

But to Willie Lee Wells that is a small misconception. When Wells picks up the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's daily mail from the post office about 6:45 every weekday morning he is very aware of the magnitude of his responsibility.

In that mail may be more than one hundred checks

sent in by Mississippi Baptist churches. Every day the count is different, but the responsibility is the same. The number of checks coming in on a given day may be anywhere from a handful to a hundred.



"Sometimes it feels awesome, yes ma'am," says Wells who has worked for the convention board for almost a year. "I really enjoy it and it's nice to work around Christian people."

Even though Wells is not a Southern Baptist (he is among the fellowship of True Gospel Church of God and Christ), he is becoming

aware of the many things those checks he handles do for the Lord around the world and here in Mississippi. He and a co-worker have plans for a fishing trip to Kosciusko where the Brotherhood camp is located.

"I hear its beautiful up there," he says, agreeing that such a place is a fine one for a religious retreat.

What's more, Wells hopes he'll have more opportunity to see how the Cooperative Program blesses the lives of Mississippi Baptists. Perhaps he will visit a Baptist college or children's home, or attend a conference or visit a camp. But what is not so easily seen is how giving to the Cooperative Program blesses the lives of those who do the giving. □

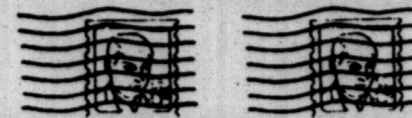


The Cooperative Program

HOUSE OF GODS



Letters to the editor



Impressed by proposal

Editor:

I am concerned about the power struggle which is continuing to erode our Southern Baptist Convention and the spirit of family cooperation within the SBC.

I am a Baptist by choice. I was reared in Southern Baptist churches, grew up in Sunday School, Training Union (Discipleship Training), missions involvement, Vacation Bible School, and other related SBC activities.

I was most impressed by Lloyd Elder's proposal to once again attempt to unify the SBC "family." The suggestions highlighted in the June 10 Baptist Record seemed more of a "modernization" than a "divisive" approach as credited to Morris Chapman.

I believe that Lloyd Elder carefully researched this report and presents it to us, the SBC family, with a "servant's heart."

Having myself worked in a professional role of continuing education and personnel, I agree with the specific ideas cited regarding appointment to SBC committees, and initiating "regional voting conventions" using modern video technology.

Our society is one which seeks empowerment of its members, not power by a select few. This is not a new idea. It was a goal of the original SBC structure of nearly 100 years ago. It is the underlying principle of democracy through which this very country was established over 200 years ago.

Moreover, the Bible in both the Old and New Testament cites how man's vanity for power will always bring demise. Christ Jesus taught servanthood where the "least shall be first." Our SBC is not only that of mega churches, but largely fueled by the many smaller church families throughout the convention.

This is the family Mr. Elder is trying to preserve and this should be the concern of all of our hearts.

Melanie Fortenberry
Clinton

Thanks from Miami

Editor:

The staff and churches of the Miami Baptist Association have recently been making an effort to contact every person throughout the nation who has responded in such a beautiful way to the great needs that were left in the wake of Hurricane Andrew. Southern Baptist people by the thousands have shown their concern in ways that have resulted in many church buildings being restored as places of worship, literally hundreds of people left virtually homeless by the storm are now back in their completely rebuilt houses, and many others will be done in the future. God's people have made all this possible by their donations of funds, materials, and (perhaps most of all) by the back-breaking work that they have done as volunteers.

Try as we might, there is no possibility of our contacting all of the thousands of people by mail or by phone. Hundreds came, toiled, and

went away with only the Lord knowing of their presence in this area. Our heavenly Father alone can reward them, but the Miami Baptist Association can at least thank them! One of the ways that we are attempting to convey this thanks is through asking you to print this letter in your fine publication. You reach people that we could probably never locate, and we want them to know that their response to our needs has made us proud to be called Southern Baptists!

Doyle L. Wetherington,
Executive director

Committees take note

Editor:

I am troubled. For 38 years I have been a Southern Baptist pastor in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Kentucky, most of which has been in Mississippi. The church where I serve now is a great church. The people are precious. But, the time has come for me to move. There is no trouble, you just know in your spirit when that time is come.

My biographical information has been circulated for almost a year now. I have had two contacts by pastor search committees. Both churches called someone else. The problem appears to be that I am 61 years old. But, I am in good health and not a bad risk. I get along well with all age groups and dearly love to be a pastor.

It seems to me churches would want the wisdom, knowledge, and love of someone who had this

much experience.

I know there are many highly qualified younger men available and I am not being critical. I am for them. My point is; there are churches that need us all.

My desire is to pastor about seven more years. I can be a strong asset to a church in preaching, administration, love, etc.

Dear members of search committees, please give us all an opportunity. We know how to be a pastor now. Don't rule us out, give us an opportunity to serve until the Lord says stop.

Name withheld by Editor

Natives write home

Editor:

Charles and I were married on June 3, 1943. This year is our 50th anniversary. We are from Okolona, Miss.

Charles is a graduate of Mississippi College, 1943, and I attended Blue Mountain College before we married. I later graduated from the University of Louisville while Charles attended Southern Seminary there, a 1946 graduate.

We were married at the Longview Heights Church, Memphis, where my father, now deceased, was pastor. He officiated. He was Robert B. Patterson Sr., and pastored the Okolona Church, 1937-40.

We are planning to celebrate our anniversary this year at a former church in Hampton, Va., the Ivy Memorial Church, where Charles pastored 1959-64. (Gene Fant, for-

merly of Laurel, is the present pastor.)

We thought you might like to know this bit of interest about two who read with such avid interest every issue of the Baptist Record.

Charles retired in 1986 as the church extension director for the Puget Sound Association. Since retirement, he has pastored the Mountain Highway Church in Spanaway, Wash.

If you are ever in this lovely area of the Great Northwest, our welcome mat is always out to Mississippi friends.

Dorothy P. Jolly
(Mrs. Charles A. Sr.)
Federal Way, Wash.

Masonry not a cult

Editor:

Masonry is the world's oldest known fraternal organization. It is not a cult. Masonry can be traced back to about 3800 B.C., according to the Grolier's Encyclopedia. The Southern Baptist Convention only goes back to the year 1845 A.D. It came about because of a split in Northern and Southern Baptists. The main reason for the split was the old southern institution of slavery! Slavery, which was wrong then, is wrong now, and has been wrong since the dawn of history.

You have not hurt Masonry by your study, nor could you ever do so. The people who are trying so hard to "shoot down" Masonry are, as it were, "shooting themselves in the foot," and that includes the SBC itself!

Preachers and witnesses just need to stand fast for what is right and go on preaching the Word of God. The Bible tells us plainly, "Let God's Word be true and every man a liar."

The big problem with Southern Baptist churches and the Convention as a whole nowadays can be compared to a big fine-looking house that is just about to fall down because of internal structural dry rot.

This happens when God and godliness is replaced by the egotism of mankind. I believe people within the SBC who are actually "saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ," would do quite well indeed to listen to people like Charles Stanley and Adrian Rogers and leave the liberals and so-called "moderates" alone altogether!

Joseph P. Leach
Blue Springs

Montgomery celebrates centennial

Montgomery Church, Lincoln Association, will conduct a centennial celebration July 11, beginning with morning services at 10 a.m.

Lunch will be served at noon, and afternoon services will follow at 1:30. The church, founded July 9, 1893, will observe a memorial and special singing service during the afternoon.

Starrett Cleveland is pastor.

For nearly 100 years, we've seen tragedies like the one suffered by the 165-member congregation of the Greenville, Georgia, Baptist Church strike churches like yours.

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Children's Village benefit pits ministers and laymen golfers

An 18-hole, two-man select, golf tournament to benefit the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village will be held July 22 and 24 at the Hinds Community College golf course on Highway 18 near Raymond. The event is being sponsored by golfing friends of the Children's Village.

Ministers will play in the tournament on July 22, and laymen will play on July 24. Golfers may play on either day if they wish, or on

both days if two entry fees are paid. A hole-in-one prize of \$2000 in gift certificates will be awarded to the golfer making the "skillful shot."

Entry fee is \$60. For more information, contact Alta Woods Church in Jackson at (601) 373-2371. Golfers may also contact Mark Givens at 3907 Marlendo Drive, Jackson, MS 39212. Telephone: (601) 373-2288, after 7 p.m.

Devotional...

A loveless nation

By June DePriest

We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).

Last year's events in Los Angeles serve as a reminder of the anger and bitterness that spilled out of the hearts of men to fall on innocent victims.

Lives have been snuffed out, property destroyed, and the livelihood of many taken away. Hours have been spent and will continue to be spent analyzing the social problems of America.

We find that the apostle John in Revelation 2 wrote to a church in Ephesus. He praised them for their strengths but ended with an indictment which blotted out all their good works.

The church lost its first love. In the beginning its members possessed a passionate love for Jesus that burned within like a fire. Rather than the fire continuing to blaze, ashes have been found to serve as a reminder of what might have been.

The world is shouting, "Don't tell me you love me; show me you love me." God has said, unless we repent, he will remove his lampstand when his people become loveless.

Lord, help me to be an instrument of your love.

DePriest lives in Clinton.

At 3 a.m., 165 people lost their house.

Consultant shares steps for guiding youths to sexual purity

By Chip Alford

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Making wise sexual choices is the path to perfect love, participants in a June 23 seminar at Glorieta Conference Center were told.

"Perfect love is not flawless, but it is God-guided, others-centered, lasting, and committed," Chuck Gartman, a youth ministry consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board told youth Sunday School workers attending his seminar, "Decision Making for Youth in a World of Sexual Pressure." The seminar was held during the Church Growth-Sunday School Leadership Conference at Glorieta.

Gartman used an acronym to describe the steps necessary to guide youths to resist sexual temptation and remain sexually pure: "L," for loving youths unconditionally; "O," for offering resources such as your time and attention; "V," for valuing God's ways; "E," for equipping youths with the "whys" and "hows," explain to youths why they should abstain and how they can experience the perfect love of Christ.

Referring to the Baptist Sunday School Board's recently released Christian sex education resources

for children, youth and parents and the BSSB-sponsored sexual abstinence campaign "True Love Waits," Gartman said he is glad Southern Baptists are beginning to talk about sexuality.

"All of us have difficulty dealing with this issue, whether it is talking with our own teenagers about sex or youth in our church," Gartman said. "There are no easy answers, but there is a good answer — valuing God's ways."

Gartman suggested the following resources on teaching the biblical view of sexuality:

— "Sex, What's That," by Susan Lanford, for preadolescents; "Sexuality: God's Gift," by Ann Cannon, for adolescents; and "Christian Sex Education: Parents and Church Leader's Guide." All three resources are part of the BSSB's Christian sex education series.

— "Ministry with Youth in Crisis," compiled by Richard Ross and Judi Hayes.

— "Ministry with Youth and Their Parents," compiled by Richard Ross and G. Wade Rowatt Jr.

— "Youth Sunday School Workers Notebook: Breakthrough."

— Living With Teenagers, a

BSSB magazine which sometimes includes articles on sexuality.

Alford writes for BSSB.

Keith Parker resigns CBF Europe post

ATLANTA (ABP) — Baptist missionary veteran Keith Parker has resigned after less than a year as coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missions in Europe.

Parker told Fellowship Missions Coordinator Keith Parks that he and his wife, Jonlyn, plan to return to the United States to pursue ministries in pastoral counseling and social work. The date for his departure has not been determined.

Parker and Parks acknowledged that Parker's decision was influenced by differing perceptions about the nature of Parker's role in the Fellowship's European missions strategy. Both stressed that most of the problem could be attributed to the difficulties of launching an ambitious mission venture within a new organization.

"With some restructuring of the administrative elements of the CBF missions organization in Europe, this seemed to be the right time for us to refocus and redirect our ministries," Parker said. Plans about their relocation have not been finalized, he added.

RA camp has openings

Central Hills Baptist Retreat has several openings for the Royal Ambassador camp program during the week of July 5-9. Contact Manager Dan West at (601) 289-9730 for details.

A Reminder

There will be no Baptist Record issued on July 8, due to the terms of our postal contract.



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Names in the News

RICHMOND, Va. — Bob Compton, a 24-year veteran of Southern Baptist foreign missions, died of cancer June 22 at his home in Richmond, Va. Compton, 58, from Haywood County, N.C., had directed furloughing conferences and study for foreign missionaries since 1987. He and his wife, the former Peggy Lowe from Spartanburg County, S.C., were Southern Baptist missionaries for 18 years in Costa Rica and Colombia in theological education and at the Baptist Publishing House in El Paso, Texas.

Lance Williamson of Hattiesburg, a May 1993 graduate of William Carey College, has been selected to represent the Mississippi Chapter of Phi Lambda at the national competition in Washington, D.C., July 10-13. Williamson will compete in the accounting II division. While at Carey, Williamson was a member of the Crusader baseball team and was selected for Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. Other Carey students selected to compete are Micah Necaise in public speaking and Scott Hilton in management.

Mrs. Therman Bryant (Annie Grace) died June 24 in Clinton. Funeral services were held June 26 at Lakewood Funeral Home in Jackson, with burial in the

Endville community. Her husband worked in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department from 1965 until his death in 1977. She is survived by two sons, a brother, four sisters, and four grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to Thomas V. Bryant Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Homecomings

Macedonia, Mendenhall: July 11; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon services, 1:30; gospel group "Obadiah," music; Charles M. Case Sr., pastor.

Whitesand, Prentiss: July 4, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:30; barbecue and activities, noon; no night services; Billy Greene, Hattiesburg, guest speaker; Charles Wesley, pastor.

Beulah, Decatur: July 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; Ed Smith, former pastor, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1; afternoon preaching by W.E. Overstreet, former pastor, 2; no night services; Hulon Chaney, pastor.

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Handsboro Church, Gulfport, has called Eric D. Grizzle as part-time youth minister. A native of Mobile, Ala., he is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Wayne VanHorn has been called as pastor of First Church, Columbia. He was professor of Old Testament and Hebrew for six years at New Orleans Seminary. VanHorn is a native of Newport News, Va. He and his wife, Terri, have three children.

Shifalo Church, Kiln, has called Talley Rayborn of Waveland as pastor effective June 1. A native of Sumrall, he received his education at Mississippi State University and William Carey College.

Warren Brattlof has resigned as associate pastor for education and administration of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, to become minister of education and evangelism at Immanuel Church, Temple, Texas.

Eastabuchie Church, Eastabuchie, has called Arlie Spalding Sr. as pastor. He moved from Hillsdale Church in Macon County, Tenn., where he pastored 11 years. He also pastored Moselle Church. He and his wife, Dorothy, are 1971 graduates of William Carey College.

Tony Henry has resigned as interim pastor of Lorena Church, Smith County. He is available for revivals, interim, or pulpit supply.

Revival Dates

First, Crystal Springs: July 11-14; 7 p.m. nightly; Pat Porter, evangelist; Jerry Swimmer, music; Joel Haire, pastor.

Liberty (Mississippi): July 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; J.B. "Buddy" McElroy, Liberty, music; Michael W. Glenn, pastor.

Everett, Mendenhall: July 18-23; Sunday, 11 a.m., old fashioned day, dinner on grounds; 7 nightly; Dexter Truesdale, Jackson, evangelist; Billy Bishop, Magee, music; William McWilliams, pastor.

Enterprise, Liberty: July 18-23; Sunday, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; afternoon services, 2 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; John L. Jones, Lawrence Co., evangelist; Gary Van Norman, music; Odell Tebo, pastor.

Calvary, Booneville: July 11-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Malcom Ellis, Colmesneil, Texas, evangelist;

Shane Price, Booneville, music; Mickey Trammel, pastor.

Topisaw, Bogue Chitto: July 11-16; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Huey Moak, Baton Rouge, evangelist; Floyd Grice, Laurel, music; David Moree, pastor.

Gulfport Heights, Gulfport: July 11-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Dwight Smith, Ellisville, evangelist; T. Dole Stone, New Orleans, music; C.H. Stone Jr., pastor.

Vaiden, Vaiden: July 11-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Keith Cook, Springfield, Tenn., evangelist; Jammie Shannon, Bay Springs, music; Leon Holly, pastor.

Pattison (Union): July 11-14; Sunday, homecoming, dinner on the grounds; revival, Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Cliff Fortenberry, MC professor, evangelist for homecoming and revival; Clarence Stringer, pastor.

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Thursday, July 1, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 2

Just for the Record



First Church, Kosciusko, honored its GAs in a recognition service June 2. Directors are Linda Canty and Brenda Young. Leaders are Sandra Cook, Pam

Chadick, Tammy Peeler, Barbara King, Caye Adams, and Connie Rule.

Registration for the second summer term at Mississippi College will be Tuesday, July 6, in the A.E. Wood Coliseum, beginning at 9 a.m. Call the Office of Admissions at 1-800-738-1236 for more information.

Flag Chapel Church, Jackson, will conduct a "Super Conference" July 12-14, at 7 p.m. each evening. Charles McKinney of Ocean Springs, James Crumpton of Natchez, and Ernie Parham will preach. A nursery will be provided.

Springhill Church, Roxie, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Contact Elizabeth Griffin, church treasurer, at (601) 639-7130.

Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will celebrate "Monday Night Renewal" at 7 each Monday night in July. Speakers will be Ken Alford of Clinton, Jim Futral of Jackson, Frank Pollard of Jackson, and Rocky Henriques Jr. of Jackson. Shelly Overby, Mike Harland, Richard and Susan Lister, and Glen Allison will provide music. Larry S. McDonald is pastor.

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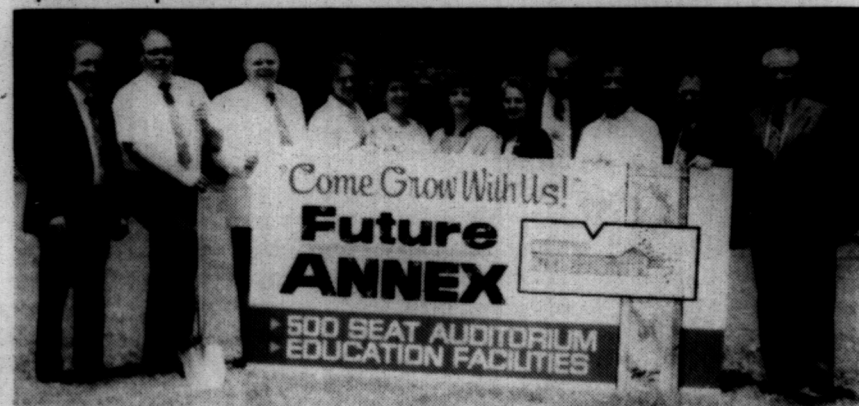


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Hillcrest Church, Jackson, recently held a GA recognition service in which 23 girls received their badges. They are, left to right: first row, Brooke Lincoln, Heather Johnson, Brandi Ricks, Rebekah Patrick, Sarah Mahaffey, Jennifer Freeman, Jessica Eubanks, Lauren Barnes; second row, Lori Hamel, Jessica Ginn, Sue Bunnari, Emily Case, Shelly Bates, Sara Welch, Melissa Shearer, Laura Ginn, Carrie Manor, Courtney Davis, Charity Kuni, Ashley Kennedy, and Jessica Branson. Not pictured are Rebekah Bicker and Kimberly Elliott. The girls and their mothers were also honored with an afternoon tea. Jeanette Stringer is GA director; S.M. Henriques Jr. is pastor.



Cleary Church, Florence, recently held groundbreaking ceremonies for its education building and interim sanctuary. Taking part in the ceremony are, left to right: W.E. Gillis, pastor; and building committee members, Bob Whitley, Ed Green, Robert Kelly, Sherry Kelly, Carol J. Applewhite, Betty Pope, Jim Pope, Kirby Smith, Mickey Smith, and J.C. Renfro. Not pictured are Jimmy Abernathy, John Applewhite.

Correction

In the June 17 issue of the Baptist Record, Michael Peeler was listed in the "Staff Changes" of the paper as having completed his internship at First Church, Columbia. That city was incorrect. Peeler completed his internship at First Church, Columbus.

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Uniform Jesus Christ is Lord



By Michael O'Brien
Colossians 1

To the average Christian, "Jesus Christ is Lord," simply means that we confess him and are saved (Rom. 10:9-10). However, being saved is more than that. We must come to realize that Jesus is Lord even if we never confess him. In our lesson text, Paul states, "He is before all things, and by him all things consist" (1:17). Does this mean everything, the entire universe? Yes, everything in the entire universe owes its existence to Jesus Christ, who is preeminent in all of the universe and in his church.

1. Paul expresses gratitude for the faithfulness, the love, and the hope in the believers at Colosse. It is clear from Paul's expressed gratitude that these believers remained faithful even when the going got tough. Their love was not restricted as Paul declares in verse 4, "the love which you have for all saints." Sometimes there are the unlovely in the church, but the believers love them anyway. They also held out a hope (v. 5). Heaven is a place, a real place, and believers are going to go there one day. The hope that these believers had was not a worldly hope which said, "Gee, I'm not sure, but I hope I make it." It was a hope of faith and belief which said, "One day I'll be there." It was a "faithful" hope.

2. Paul also expressed a prayer (v. 11). There is nothing greater that we can do for a person than to pray for them. Prayers should also be specific. Paul wants these Colossians to be strengthened with his "might and power." Christians get discouraged and lose patience. It is Paul's prayer that this will not happen to the Colossian believers. He asks God to help them to be strong in long-suffering and patience and to make doing his will bring them joy, peace, and happiness.

3. The apostle also expresses thanksgiving (vv. 12-14). When we honestly consider where we are as Christians and where God has taken us from, we should all fall on our knees in grateful humiliation for the expressed love of God and the shed blood of our Lord. Paul teaches that God has "delivered us from the power of darkness." It is ironic that lost people do not even realize that they are in spiritual darkness and bondage. It is even more ironic that many Christians do not realize that they have been delivered from that same darkness. In this letter, it is obvious that Paul realized where he had been, where he was, and the awesome cost it took to get him there (v. 14). "through his blood."

4. In the next three verses Paul helps us to see our exalted Savior. People often ask, "What is God like?" Paul gives us the answer to that question in verse 15. He declares that Jesus is the image of God. Unlike man (made in the image of God), Jesus is the expressed image on God, or God in the flesh. What would you like to know about God? Would you like to know about his character? His power? His compassion? Well, learn about Jesus. His authority is all encompassing. Those things that you can see are under his authority. Those things which you cannot see, (principalities, powers, spirits, angels) are under his authority. The world as we know it would come completely unglued if Jesus ever took his hands off of it. He created it all, he sustains it all, and he owns it all.

5. Paul's next intent is to help us all to understand that it is through Christ that reconciliation between sinful man and Holy God has been accomplished. Christ has all of the heavenly attributes and power necessary to bring the two together. It is by his own blood, the blood of the Son of God, that he is able to save us from our sinful condition.

6. In the remaining verses (21-23), Paul makes this salvation personal. Yes, Jesus did reconcile the world unto himself. It is true that he even reconciled the created order. However, he also brings you! "And you..." Paul says in verse 21. "Even you!" You were an alienated enemy in wickedness, and he even reconciled you. Awesome! It cost him his life (v. 22), but he presented you, holy and blameless (not guilty) before God. Finally in verse 23 Paul says, "Hang in there. Keep the faith. Like a rock remain steadfast and unmovable."

We need to heed this good advice today. Come to Christ and be reconciled if you are not already. Remain faithful if you know that you have been brought unto salvation.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book Greatness of God's salvation



By Jewel P. Merritt
1 Peter 1:1-12

Difficult days come to us all. How grateful we should be that we can say with the apostle John, "...The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Peter enlarged on this great truth in the opening of his letter to dear friends.

Greetings to God's people (1:1-2). As was the custom of his day, Peter identified himself and then named those to whom this letter was addressed, "God's elect" who were "strangers in the world" living in Asia Minor. My father had a golfing partner who, when he hit a great shot, would say, "Let's sit here and talk about that one a while." I feel that way about verse 2. We have been chosen by God the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, sprinkled with Jesus' blood for the purpose of obeying him. Think of that! The Trinity at work in you and me. The greatness of his salvation, his working in our lives should cause us to stop and praise him!

A salvation made secure by God's power (1:3-5). The most common way to become a citizen of a country is by being born there. When we become Christians, it is as if we have been reborn. When we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we became citizens of heaven. And this is an eternal inheritance! Have you ever returned home after being away for several days to find that your freezer has quit working? Heartsick, you open the door and see that all the vegetables you put up for next winter have spoiled. What a waste of time and good food! Our heavenly inheritance is not vulnerable to spoiling or fading or perishing. It is secure, kept safe forever. Not only is our inheritance safe; we, through our faith, are kept by God's power. Does that mean that God's children are trouble-free? No, a thousand times no! Jesus said that in the world we will have trouble (John 16:33), but he assured us of victory in and through him.

A salvation that outlasts earthly trials (1:6-9). Because of the assurance of our inheritance and because of God's immeasurable power, we can rejoice in the trials and sufferings of this life. Only God's children can experience peace and joy in the midst of all our troubles. Our peace and joy are results of the grace of our loving heavenly Father. What is the most precious thing in the world to you? Peter said in verse 7 that our faith is more precious than gold. How do handle such treasure? We must allow God to refine and purify our faith, to prove it genuine so that our faith will bring praise, glory, and honor to him. One of the wonders of the Bible is that words written so long ago are still relevant to us. Verses 8-9 seem to have special meaning for our day. We can only say with Paul, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15).

The prophetic announcement of salvation (1:10-12). Some people talk about the good old days. I'm glad I live now. Medical research has extended our life expectancy. Home appliances free us to enjoy our families more. Modern transportation makes it possible to travel to distant countries. But the best thing about living today is having God's complete revelation in Jesus Christ. The prophets wrote and spoke of the suffering, redeeming Messiah who was to come. They asked questions of God about when this One would come. Even angels long to look into God's amazing salvation and grace. Of all people, you and I are most blessed. We have the words of the prophets concerning the coming Messiah. We have eyewitness accounts of the fact that he has come, lived and died for us, was buried, raised from the dead, and ascended back into heaven. God has provided this great salvation for us. With whom have you shared it?

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work Does Christianity work?



By Mark A. Rathel
James 1:1-15

Non-Christians often ask an important question concerning the Christian faith, "Does it work?" When you lose your job, when a loved one dies, or when a doctor diagnoses an unpronounceable disease, does being a Christian make a difference? How is a Christian's attitude toward suffering and calamity different than a non-Christian's? What resources are available to Christians during difficult periods?

James, the half-brother of Jesus, triumphantly proclaimed that the Christian faith does work; the Christian faith does make a difference in difficult days.

Trials are assumed (vv. 2-4). Christians do not have a choice concerning the nature, timing, or possibility of trials. The only certainty regarding trials is that every believer will unexpectedly fall into trials. Trials are testing times that uncover the real nature or character of a believer. A believer has only one option in the face of trials; a believer can choose his/her attitude. Christians can rejoice, not despair, because they know that God has a purpose through trials — to develop mature faith.

James outlined the process of growth through trials. Trials produce perseverance, the quality of constancy, tenacity, and loyal devotion. When perseverance "finishes its work," the result is maturity. Maturity is characterized as completeness, that is a wholeness or soundness in all the component parts. Christian maturity, therefore, has the connotation of integrity. A mature Christian lacks no essential virtue.

Our resource in trials (vv. 5-8). Joy is not a natural reaction to difficulty. Joy is possible only when a believer has insight from God's perspective. Wisdom is a God-given understanding and perspective. The function of godly wisdom is to enable a believer to avoid sin and wickedness. A spiritual relationship exists between a trial and a temptation. Without God's wisdom, a trial may become an occasion for sin.

Many Christians have a wisdom deficiency. To face life's battles with the right perspective requires continual, perpetual intercession to God. James called God the giving God; it is his nature to give generously and habitually. God does not give with an attitude of reproach. He does not chide, criticize, or embarrass a believer concerning confessed failures or misuse of past gifts.

God is willing to give wisdom; believers, however, may not be able to receive God's wisdom. Faith is the lone prerequisite for godly wisdom. Believers must pray with confidence in God's willingness and ability to grant the request. Doubting Christians are "double-minded." They experience an inner warfare between the alternatives of trust and distrust in regards to God. The "double-minded" Christian experiences instability in every area of life — personal, business, and spiritual.

Trials and human distinctions (vv. 9-11). Without godly wisdom, people often make meaningless distinctions between individuals; for example, between rich and poor. Poor believers can boast in their rich position in Jesus Christ. Rich Christians can boast in the discovery that riches are transitory; riches provide no resources during trials.

A promise concerning trials (v. 12). Believers who successfully face trials receive a twofold reward. They are blessed, a term that describes a person who shares the life and sufficiency of God. They are given a victor's wreath, the crown of life.

An analysis of temptation (vv. 13-15). Often God sends trials into a believer's life; God is not, however, associated with temptation. The life-cycle of sin begins with evil desire, whose offspring is sin. The offspring of sin is death. Mature Christians discover that the Christian faith works even when encountering temptation.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mr. Henry Quong
Teresa, Chiffry & Leanna Rushin
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Mrs. Bernard Stein
Mrs. Jake Stein
Mrs. Ruth Stovall
Mr. Murray C. Tate
Charlie & Roma Fern
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Mrs. J.P. Marsalis
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Mr. & Mrs. Garveese Dillon
Mr. W.F. Terrell
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Mr. & Mrs. Chester Germany
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Mr. Higdon Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Cliburn
Bob Wall
Mrs. Cecil Boswell
Mr. Robert R. Wall
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Young
Mr. Baxter Walley
Mr. & Mrs. Hobart Daniels

(to be continued)

CHILDREN'S PAGE

You Shall Not Give False Testimony

Directions: Use the code in the block below to decode the different kinds of lies people tell. Then keep going to decode the secret formula for keeping the ninth commandment.

THESE ARE LIES:

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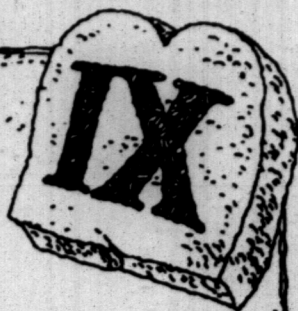
◇△△△

SECRET FORMULA FOR SUCCESS:

□□□□□□□□□□

△△□□□□□□□□

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



HELP YOU TELL THE TRUTH.
NOT KEEP. Secret formula for success: ASK GOD TO
EXAGGERATION, BOASTING, PROMISES YOU CAN-
Answers: These are lies: GOSSIP, FALSE FLATTERY.
Source: *Ten to Grow On: Teaching the Ten Commandments to Today's Child*, by Sandra Klaus (Zondervan Publishing House, 1992). Available at your local Christian bookstore, or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

Drinking what's good for you

Drinking something cool is a favorite activity for children, especially when it is hot and humid outside. But few, if any, stop to think that what they drink plays an important role in having a healthy body and plenty of energy. Below is a list of questions about beverage consumption. See how well you do.

1. Health experts recommend that you drink this much liquid daily: (a) eight 12-ounce glasses, including water; (b) eight 6-ounce glasses, including water; or (c) four 8-ounce glasses of water.

2. Which beverage is better to drink when you are thirsty and dehydrated? (a) soft drinks; (b) fruit juice; or (c) water.

3. How many daily fruit servings do you need? (a) one; (b) two to four; or (c) it's not important.

4. Ounce for ounce, which juice has the highest content of vitamin C? (a) orange; (b) tomato; or (c) apple.

5. What are "American's three favorite, top-selling fruit juices, in order? (a) orange, apple, grapefruit; (b) apple, orange, grapefruit; or (c) grape, grapefruit, orange.

6. Drinking one 6-ounce glass of fruit juice can count as one of your daily fruit servings. (a) True or (b) False.

7. Which beverage do Americans drink most? (a) juice; (b) water; or (c) soft drinks.

8. Which beverage categories are best for you? (a) water, soft drinks, coffee; (b) milk, tea, fruit juices; or (c) water, milk, juice.

Answers: (1) a; (2) c; (3) b; (4) a; (5) a; (6) a; (7) c; (8) c.

Score: 7-8 correct, Super! You're an expert; 5-6 correct, Very good! You know how to quench your thirst; 3-4 correct, Fair. You need to "juice up" what you know about beverage nutrition; 1-2 correct, Aggh! Think more about what you drink.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Leigh Rinehart. I am 10 years old. I go to church at Glendale Baptist Church. My hobbies are reading, swimming, playing outside, and watching TV. I would really like a pen pal. So write me at Rt. 1, Box 42-B, Rienzi, MS 38865.

Leigh Rinehart

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Marion Weeks, and I am 11 years old. My hobbies are collecting stamps, dancing, beading, and swimming. I do not care if I have a boy or girl pen pal. My address is 321 Shelby Dr., Drew, MS 38737.

Marion Weeks

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Hannah Howard. I'm 7 years old and will be 8 years old on July 6. I am a Christian and go to Bethany Baptist Church in Potts Camp, Miss. My hobbies are piano and singing. My favorite color is hot pink. If you would like to be my pen pal, please write me at Rt. 1, Box 25-BB, Potts Camp, MS 38659.

Hannah Howard

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Cassie Hughes. I am 13 years old. I am a junior high cheerleader, and I love swimming and playing baseball and football. I go to Shiloh Baptist Church. I go to Calhoun City Middle School. If you are a boy or girl of any age, please write me at Rt. 1, Box 34-C, Big Creek, MS 38914.

Cassie Hughes

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Crystal LaAnn Chamblee. I am 12 years old. I will be 13 on October 25. I am a Christian, and I go to Ephesus Baptist Church in Forest. I will be in the 7th grade when school starts back. I like to ride my bike, sing and play gospel music, and read. I have a dog named Bear. If you would like to be my pen pal, you can write to me at Rt. 1, Box 90, Forest, MS 39074.

Crystal LaAnn Chamblee

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Traci Hill. I am 11 years old. I will be in the 7th grade at Calhoun Academy. My birthday is August 16. I am a member of Pittsboro Baptist



Church. My hobbies include swimming, bike riding, playing basketball, and reading. I would like my pen pal to be a girl or boy. My address is P.O. Box 196, Pittsboro, MS 38951.

Traci Hill

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Rex Wolverton. I am 10 years old. My birthday is May 21. My hobbies are watching TV, riding bikes, swimming, and collecting baseball cards. I also like horses and turtles. I am learning to play the guitar. I am a Christian and go to First Baptist Church in Meridian. If you want to be my pen pal, please write me at this address: Rt. 7, Box 514-D, Meridian, MS 39301.

Rex Wolverton

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Amanda Renee Waddle. I will be in the 7th grade at Nettleton Junior High School. I am 12 years old. I like to play basketball, ride horses, and skate. My favorite colors are red and blue. I go to Liberty Baptist Church. I would like to be a vet. I want my pen pal to be a girl or boy. My address is 30520 Central Grove Rd, Aberdeen, MD 39730.

Amanda Waddle

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Kayla Nicole Parker. I will be in 1st grade at Nettleton Primary School. I am 6 years old. My favorite colors are pink, red, white, and blue. I go to Liberty Baptist Church. I would like my pen pal to be a girl. My address is Rt. 3, Box 680-N, Nettleton, MS 38858.

Kayla Parker

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Perrin Sizemore.

more. I would like a boy or girl pen pal. I am 9 years old. I am going into the 4th grade. My hobbies are riding my bike, swimming, and talking to friends. My address is 1236 Eshman Ave., West Point, MS 39773.

Perrin Sizemore

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Samantha Long, but everyone calls me Sam. I would like a boy or girl pen pal. I am 12 years old. I'm going into the 7th grade. My hobbies are talking on the phone, reading, swimming, and many other things. My address is Rt. 1, Box 5, Pheba, MS 39755.

Sam Long

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Karen Michelle Busby. I am 10 years old. My birthday is October 9. My hobbies are talking on the phone, riding a 4-wheeler, going shopping, swimming, singing, riding bikes, and writing letters. If you would like to be my pen pal, please write me at 5909 County Rd. 120, Quitman, MS 39355.

Karen Michelle Busby

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Lesli Shannon. I am in the 4th grade at Southeastern Elementary School. I am 10 years old and go to Mount Zion Baptist Church. My hobbies are swimming, riding horses, fishing, and talking friends. My lace Rd., Meriden, MS 39203.

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Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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SGER SGUM ER SGU LURROFU VGEGB VU
GOTU GUOQC ID GEL, OMC CUBKOQU OMSI XIO,
SGOS FIC ER KEFGS, OMC EM GEL ER MI
COQJMURR OS OKK.

DEQRS HIGM IMU: DETU

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six:Thirty-Six.

Baptist Record

005-DTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

July 1, 1993

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205